

REMARKS

Applicants reply to the Final Office Action dated January 02, 2008 within two months, so Applicants request an Advisory Action, if necessary. Claims 1-15 were pending in the application and the Examiner rejects claims 1-15. Support for the amendments may be found in the originally-filed specification, claims, and figures. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended in the interview of February 05, 2008, in which Applicants' representatives, Examiner Shibru, and the Examiner's supervisor, Thai Q. Tran, discussed the above proposed amendment to claim 1, and the Examiners agreed that such amendment will differentiate from the cited reference, Hanaya (U.S. Patent No. 5,754,258). The Examiners also agreed that the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection is not appropriate based on Applicants' explanation of the support for claim 1. The following remarks are provided in light of the interview.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. As discussed with the Examiner and Examiner's supervisor, support for the language in claim 1 can be found in the Description of the Preferred Embodiment at, for example, page 2, lines 5-13; page 13, lines 17-24; page 14, lines 18-23; and fig. 3. For example, Fig. 3 clearly illustrates that after t2 (i.e., after the switching process is executed), the audio output is muted. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's 112 rejection.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-12 and 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hanaya. The Examiner also rejects claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Hanaya. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As can be easily understood by referring to Table 1, Hanaya discloses the release of the mute of sound (i.e., unmuting) after the completion of the channel switching. See e.g., fig. 25 and col. 22, lines 10-12. In contrast, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite "a mute section for automatically muting the first audio signal which is output from the audio signal switch section, **wherein there is no volume coming from the first audio signal after the audio signal output from the audio signal switch section is switched** by the audio signal switch section from the second audio signal to the first audio signal" (emphasis added).

Both the Examiner and Examiner's supervisor agreed in the interview of February 05, 2008, that the proposed amendments in this Reply differentiated the invention from the cited art. Support

for this amendment can be found in the Description of the Preferred Embodiment at least at page 2, lines 5-13; page 13, lines 17-24; page 14, lines 18-23; and fig. 3.

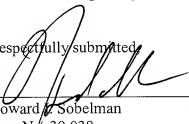
Table 1

	After the switching process is executed:	Support
Hanaya et al.	Sound (i.e., unmuted)	See e.g., fig. 25 and col. 22, lines 10-12.
Presently claimed invention	NO sound (i.e., muted)	See e.g., page 2, lines 5-13; page 13, lines 17-24; page 14, lines 18-23; and fig. 3.

In direct contrast, Hanaya teaches **being unmuted after switching**, and thereby teaches away from Applicants' invention which requires **being muted after switching**. As such, Hanaya does not disclose or contemplate at least "automatically muting the first audio signal which is output from the audio signal switch section, wherein there is no volume coming from the first audio signal after the audio signal output from the audio signal switch section is switched by the audio signal switch section from the second audio signal to the first audio signal," as recited by independent claim 1. As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's 102(b) and 103(a) rejections.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. **19-2814**. Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner has any questions whatsoever regarding this Reply or the present application in general.

Dated: February 22, 2008 _____

Respectfully submitted,
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